



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

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JAN 06 2009

Ref: 8EPR-N

RE: White River National Forest Travel  
Management Plan, Supplemental Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement,  
CEQ#20080442

WRNF Travel Management Plan and DEIS  
c/o BW-CAG  
172 E 500 S  
Bountiful, UT 84010

Dear Sir or Madam:

In accordance with EPA's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. Section 4332(2) (C), and our authorities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7609, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA) has reviewed the referenced Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the White River National Forest (WRNF) Travel Management Plan.

The purpose of the travel management plan is to develop a travel system across the entire WRNF to accommodate and balance the transportation needs of the public and to provide adequate access for forest and resource management, while still allowing for protection of natural resources. This plan will be used to identify the travel system for both summer and winter use across the Forest. The end result of the travel management plan process will be a clear description of the travel system necessary for administrative and recreational use on the White River National Forest.

Three alternatives, C, D, and E, which were previously evaluated and comments received for the Draft EIS, are not re-evaluated in detail in the SDEIS. The objective of the SDEIS is to incorporate the previous information, public comments, including corrections and updates, and present a more focused version of the travel management plan for review. Therefore, the three alternatives presented in the SDEIS, "Alternatives Considered in Detail", are based upon the original DEIS alternatives which have been revised and/or consolidated to reflect public input. EPA concurs with the analysis approach as described.

The SDEIS evaluates the following three alternatives:

- Alternative A – Alternative A is the no action alternative. Alternative A considers the current condition for travel management on the WRNF. Changes to uses on routes or other regulations are not revised to meet the WRNF Forest Plan direction (roads and trails were not site-specifically addressed in the Forest Plan).

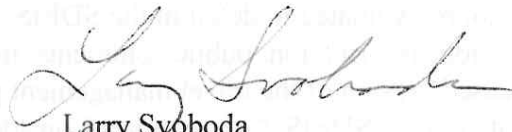
- Alternative F– Alternative F represents original Alternative B after corrections were made based on public comments. This alternative contains the minimum actions required to bring the travel system into compliance with the WRNF Forest Plan direction. Forest Service system routes are carried forward with changes to those currently out of compliance with the Forest Plan. No user-created routes are adopted and all such routes are rehabilitated.
- Alternative G – Alternative G is the preferred alternative. This alternative meets Forest Plan and regulatory guidance; considers alternatives, information, and public input from scoping and the DEIS; considers user-created routes for adoption or rehabilitation, presents routes no longer needed for decommissioning; and presents winter season travel rules where motorized travel is authorized, restricted, or prohibited. The objective of this alternative is to balance transportation needs and recreational uses with resource protection and enhancement.

Based on our review of the SDEIS and the response to comments submitted for the DEIS, EPA's issues have been adequately addressed. EPA requests that the FEIS provide information on ongoing efforts with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to reduce water quality degradation from I-70 sediment runoff impacting State of Colorado designated use-impaired stream segments, Straight Creek and Black Gore. The discussion in the FEIS should document, to the extent of availability, specific migration and monitoring plans (i.e., monitoring frequency and environmental indicators and State and federal agency commitments), for restoring the impaired stream segments to their intended uses.

Pursuant to EPA policy and guidance, EPA rates the environmental impact of an action and the adequacy of the NEPA analysis. EPA has rated the SDEIS preferred alternative as Lack of Objections "LO" under EPA's rating criteria, which is enclosed. EPA recommends that the FEIS provide an update on cooperative planning efforts with CDOT for restoring use-impaired water quality stream segments.

If you have questions regarding EPA's comments, please contact me at (303) 312-6004 or Larry Kimmel, EIS project manager, at (303) 312-6659.

Sincerely,



Larry Svoboda  
Director, NEPA Program  
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

Enclosure